

The Bimonthly Newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire

Ice Fever

by Mary Guillemette

It all began in the middle of the night on February 24th. I awoke to the howling of the wind. A frigid chill shot down my spine. Flashes of icy cold water churned in my mind and I swept the sweat away from my brow, anticipating the cold windy morning of February 25th on lake Winnepesaukee.

Most people look at you and wonder if you are for real when you tell them you are a diver but you get more than a second look if you tell them you are planning an ice dive.

We set off, bag and baggage, for the North arriving ahead of time to scope out the site of the dive. The wind shot across the lake at an enormous speed picking up ice crystals and blasting them into you like tiny bullets. The wind chill slowly ate its way into our wind breakers. The chill made this sport a little more invigorating than the usual New England dive.

Crazy you may say? But of course, we are members of the United Divers of New Hampshire, venturing where no other man dares to go battling the anything New England weather has to dish out to us.

With all members gathered, we got underway cutting the triangular hole. Members, non-members and thrill-seekers alike we hauled all the equipment onto the site using snow machines, sleds and good old-fashioned foot power. One quarter of a mile out on the ice we set up camp, making preparations and erecting dressing room facilities with the only heated area for miles. I was impressed.

With all hard work done, the fun began. We were assigned our positions from Wayne and Lea, our instructors, and soon took our places in line for diving and line tenders. Team One dropped beneath the frigid waters. Watching them, I felt my body temperature drop fifty degrees, thinking "Oh my God, Joe and I are next to go..." Twenty minutes went by fast, as Team One enjoyed their dive beneath the calm



waters of the lake, all of us on top side endured the wind whistling in at sixty miles per hour. An ice hut sailed by us with a car in pursuit. The children with us, huddling under tarps, shielded themselves from the bitter wind. Other more crazy adults opened their arms to the wind and became human sailing ships. The wind buffeted them across the ice at great speeds. Team One's time was up, so we tugged on their life lines and brought them up. Joe and I, Team Two, geared up. Suiting up, we poured warm water into our suits, gave the thumbs up and dropped down into the icy waters of Lake Winnepesaukee. After getting our bearings straight we sank below the ice ceiling. We drifted down to 30 feet and found our eyes drawn to the eerie sculpture of brownish green, and made out the outlines of a large sunken ship. I could only utter "This is too cool!" through my regulator. We toured the ship with the utmost pleasure. The cold lurked around us but did not hamper the dive.

Everything was quiet, almost in slow motion, you might say. The visibility stayed around 6 to 7 feet. No movement broke the landscape, all life lay hidden sleeping in the midst of that February day. With pictures taken of the sunken liner, turbines and hatches rusted still, we ascended with a feeling of accomplishment. The day ended with laughter and another dive logged.

President's Corner

by Phil Morrison

Live Free and Dive! That's a rather catchy phrase, isn't it? Our own Rick Bardsley claims to have originated it. He came up with the idea while working on the booth for the Boston Sea Rovers show. Now, I find it a little hard to believe that nobody has come up with it before, especially here in New Hampshire. But, until someone can prove otherwise, I am more than willing to let Rick have the credit. I believe Linda Richter also deserves a great deal of credit for the logo which appeared with this phrase at the show.

So, what's the big deal about "Live Free and Dive," other than that it makes a great logo (possibly soon to appear on a T-shirt near you)? In trying to decide what to write for this issue of *DiveLog*, this phrase came to mind. As I contemplated these words, two ideas came to

**Live Free
and
Dive**



mind; one of them rather philosophical, the other a bit more practical. If you'll indulge me for a few moments, I'd like to get a little philosophical first.

What does "Live Free and Dive" mean to you? As pondered this phrase, I realized that, in a sense, it captures the essence of diving. While everyone has their own reason for getting into diving, if you were to ask divers what they get out of it, I am sure that a majority would include in their answer a reference to a feeling of being "free." Now granted, in our area diving is usually done in the confines of an exposure suit and a lot of weight, and the visibility may not be the best. But even here in the Northeast, we can still experience the freedom of diving. Everyone has their own concept of what that freedom means. For some it may be the feeling of weightlessness. I am reminded of the organization called "Morey Wheels," which helps handicapped individuals to be



The Newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire

Editors: Jake Richter
Linda Richter

Submissions

Editorial contributions may be e-mailed to dive@strokeofcolor.com or FAXed to 603-432-0817. Submissions can also be sent on paper or PC floppy to:

Jake Richter
Editor
Dive Log
12 Heritage Lane
Derry, New Hampshire 03038

Please include a brief byline and author contact information with your submission. Submission shall automatically constitute an expressed warranty by the contributor that the material is original and is in no way an infringement on the rights of others. While no compensation is paid for published submissions, a byline indicating the source of an article will always be provided. Authors grant *Dive Log* and United Divers of New Hampshire first print rights to the submission. *Dive Log* and its editors reserve the right to edit all materials as needed. The opinions stated in the articles in *Dive Log* are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the United Divers of New Hampshire or the editors of the *Dive Log*. For further information, please contact Jake Richter at 603-432-0234.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions to *Dive Log* are included in the UDNH membership fees. Non-members may subscribe to the newsletter for \$15/year. Subscription inquiries should be addressed to Jake Richter as well.

Advertising

Rates for a full year placement (6 bimonthly issues) range from \$75 to \$360, depending on placement size and location. For detailed information on advertising in *Dive Log*, contact Linda Richter, 603-432-0234.

Copyrights

All material Copyright © 1996 by the United Divers of New Hampshire or Jake Richter, unless otherwise noted.



BELCO ELECTRIC

RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL
FULLY LICENSED & INSURED

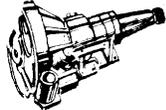
DICK BARDSLEY

OFFICE (603) 673-9600
HOME (603) 673-8539

involved in diving, allowing them to escape the limitations that gravity imposes on non-functioning limbs. For others, it may be the opportunity to see things that the vast majority of people can only see in pictures. For others still, it may be the personal satisfaction of challenging such an alien and hostile environment. And for some of us, it is a myriad of inexpressible sensations and emotions. So, whatever your reasons for getting started diving, I believe it is that experience of freedom, in whatever form it takes, that keeps us all coming back for more.

Now that I'm done philosophizing, on to a practical interpretation of the slogan. I am grateful that Linda came up with the idea of placing the slogan against the backdrop of the State of New Hampshire. You may have noticed in other columns, and at the meetings, that I am trying to be an advocate for diving in New England. It amazes me how so many divers think of diving as an exclusively warm-water sport. If you read the diving magazines and browse the diving resources on the Internet, you'll see that warm-water diving articles dominate them all. I try to tout the opportunities for diving in New England whenever I can. This new logo may be a way to help get the word out that, although the water may be cold in New Hampshire, the diving is hot!





**MANN'S TRANSMISSION
AND AUTO REPAIR**
ALL WORK GUARANTEED

Over 20 Years of Service

RONNIE MANN
(603) 883-9015

836 W. HOLLIS ST.
NASHUA, NH 03062

Dive Locations Word Search by Sue Lepore



Look for these words across, down or diagonal.

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| ARUBA | GUAM |
| AUSTRALIA | HONDURAS |
| BAHAMAS | JAMAICA |
| BALI | JAP |
| BELIZE | MICRONESIA |
| BONAIRE | NASSAU |
| CANCUN | PALAU |
| CAYMAN | PUERTO RICO |
| COZUMEL | RED SEA |
| CURACAO | SABA |
| FIJI | TRUK LAGOON |
| FLORIDA | TURKS CAICOS |

SCUBA PRO **VIKING**

ATLANTIC AQUASPORT

PROFESSIONAL DIVING EQUIPMENT

522 SAGAMORE ROAD, RYE, NH 03870

DON STEVENS

603-436-4443

INSTRUCTIONS **RENTALS**

Albatross IV 4/26/96

by Ken Anderson

I hope to tell a little story of my recent journey. It all started when I placed a follow up phone call to Jerry Prezioso for more information for the fish survey programs. That call helped begin a new chapter to one of my many adventure trips.

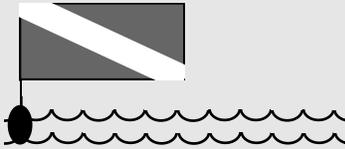
This survey has been sponsored by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the past 30 years. They look for trends in growth and population studies of our coastal waters by actually surveying the bottom with nets.

MISSION: to check various fish age and growth patterns in numerous stations pre-designated throughout George's Bank and the Gulf of Maine. The fish patterns are affected by the bottom depth, salinity, and temperature. The survey is to make an average assumption for different species found in the water. The survey also looks at plankton levels, as they are the first level in the food chain.

Top 10 List THINGS TO DO ON A BIG BOAT

- ✗ Be kind to the cook
- ✗ Learn to use the bathroom sitting down
- ✗ Use the railings on the stairs
- ✗ Keep the faith for Vic as leader
- ✗ Lie down when not feeling well
- ✗ Watch unlimited movies
- ✗ 10 a.m. snack
- ✗ Laying down on the long black coaches
- ✗ Learn to identify fish gonads
- ✗ Regret "Good Morning"

The trip started on Monday, April 15, a two hour drive to Woods Cove, Falmouth, MA on Cape Cod. We set steam at 3 p.m. and started our journey into the open sea. Land was soon forgotten!!!! The first day and a half was very rough and I traveled very well. I was assigned to the first shift; from 6 a.m. to noon plus 6 p.m. till Midnight. This was six hours on and six hours off or a 12-hour day. After the first day, I left as much of my guts on the deck as the fish did. My stomach calmed down by the third day and I was fine after that.



Aqua Ventures

Dive Center

Advanced Open Water
Rescue Diver
Specialty Programs

Weekly Boat Dives
Air Fill Cards
Equipment Rentals

20 Lowell Road

603-598-5100

Hudson, NH 03051

WRECK DIVING

SPORT FISHING

M/V DIVEMASTER



CAPTAIN BILL'S CHARTERS

"Fishing and Diving at its Best"

Bill Wagner
145 Griffin Road
Deerfield, NH
USCG# 675776

Phone: 603-463-9028



NIGHT DIVING

COD FISHING

My shift was really cool - Vic, Jay, Ralph, Nancy, and Susan!! I was labeled a Volunteer as they were all PAID scientists.

I was assigned to the plankton work:

- Run the Seabird to get the bottom water temperature
- Run the Bongo to screen the Plankton at various striations in the water table
- Run the water sampler to check water salinity on the bottom against our surface machine
- Assist the SCIENTISTS with Sorting, Cutting, and Recording.
- I mostly Recorded, but I started to learn how to Identify and Cut.

At this point, I had survived over a complete week, and they expected to be ashore in less than another week. I got used to having home cooked meals, especially a hot breakfast with no dishes to clean up!!!! Richard had done a great job.

Being at sea for extended period of time is a wonderful

experience. Everyone should go at least once. I am only now starting to enjoy the peace and harmony it brings. Why last night I heard chains banging all night. I was later told it was a door swinging open because it was not latched. I have learned to drone out the roar of the engines, though I still can't tell if we are moving or idle because we are always getting rocked by sea waves. I will miss the rocking motion to fall asleep to. I thought it was rough in a 20-foot run-a-about. Well, even this 186-foot boat gets tossed around in the open seas.

Overall, a very positive experience. I have made some great contacts, met some great people, talked a lot about diving without getting wet, and learned a lot of self discipline.

For further information about similar expeditions, please call Jerry Prezioso at (401) 782-3277



AVON DRY SUITS

"When only the best will do"

H.D. Rivited Zipper, 100% Vulcanized Seams, 1500 gr/m², Unrivalled Flexibility.

100% dry - 100% of the time.

Importers/Distributors - Portsmouth Scuba, 513 Marcy St., Portsmouth, NH 03801, 603-436-4887

US Diver

DACOR

Portsmouth Scuba

- A Shop Run by Divers for Divers -

513 Marcy Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801
603-436-4887

Sea Quest

Charters

Avon Dry Suits

Dive Alert

by Phil Morrison

I finally got around to reading the March 1996 issue of Rodale's Scuba Diving, and came across a rather troubling article. The article is entitled "Mega Monofilament" and discusses the dangers of a new generation of high-strength, nearly invisible fishing lines.

Fishing line makers are now producing 200-pound-test line with a diameter of 70-pound-test monofilament made of braided polyethylene "super fibers," copolymer monofilament that is virtually invisible underwater, and black gel-spun polyethylene monofilament that is two-thirds smaller than conventional line. Because of their size and strength, pulling on the lines can cause deep cuts in the skin. They also resist cutting by conventional dive knives. Scuba Diving relates the story of Richard Kurnak, of Brooklyn, NY, who got entangled in some lines at 130 feet. He states, "I tried my knife with a rope cutter, then one with a serrated blade, then one with a cobalt blade for cable. Nothing made a dent in this stuff. You could hardly see it." Kurnak managed to escape by ditching his gear and making a free ascent from 130 feet.

Many of you may remember the test of dive knives we did last year. The hands-down winner was a pair of shears. According to the article, while different tools are recommended for different types of lines, these shears seem to be the best all-around means of freeing yourself from these high-strength lines.

The article mentions that these lines are a danger found on the wrecks off New York and New Jersey. I don't know if they can be found around here. But, to be on the safe side, I think I'll start carrying a pair of those shears with me. How about you?

Plankton and Visibility

by Ken Anderson

Have you ever noticed that the visibility in New England isn't the best? We travel to the Caribbean and the Keys and claim to have visibility of over 100 feet, but dive up here in the summer and we celebrate when we get 20 feet visibility.

RIDDLE: Has anyone ever told you that they saw 50 foot visibility on Back Beach?

ANSWER: Did they also mention it was a crisp January day with 34 degree water and they were diving in a dry suit!

To answer this riddle, I caught up to a group of scientists while onboard the Albatross IV on George's Bank and the Gulf of Maine.

First: What are PLANKTON?

Plankton are microscopic-sized plants and animals which are suspended in the water column. These form the most basic food organisms for small fish and invertebrates as well as a major food supply for many larger fish such as herring and mackerel. Plankton also consists of fish eggs and larvae which circulate with water currents. A lot of invertebrates such as crabs, lobsters, barnacles, and shellfish also send their larvae into the water where they will spend several weeks growing before settling down on the bottom.

As spring time approaches, the hours of daylight also increase. The plankton can use the daylight by a process of photosynthesis to reproduce at a greater rate. The ever present nutrients in our waters helps the plankton to grow at a significant rate. This increase in

GARY CARBONNEAU

UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY

COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION

Box 273
Windham, NH 03807
603-893-6957

Specializing in Northern New England Shipwrecks

reproduction and larger size fills the water column, reducing the visibility.

In the summer periods, the water is now at its warmest point and the plankton are providing the first steps in the marine food chain. The plankton, in combination with the long days of sunlight and nutrient rich water, are reproducing like crazy. The warm water gives us the optimal time to get in the water and dive, but we get discouraged by the cloudiness. As the hours of sunlight decrease in the fall period, the plankton reproduction and overall quantity has decreased and is not very visible. The water has cooled down and visibility has increased, but the water may not be as comfortable to dive. The shorter days in the winter months decrease photosynthesis and plankton reproduction is at an all time low. The water may be cold, but the visibility is at an all time high and it doesn't get any better to see underwater.

What to do?

We have been blessed with a healthy marine ecosystem-system with species such as mackerel, haddock, cod, flounder, and lobster. We must remember that as divers

we are entering a new world. We are only visitors to this underwater paradise. Though we may not have the bright and colorful tropical fish, we should be thankful for the abundance of ALL sea life available for our annual viewing periods.

SO, Let's get out and DIVE to see as much as we can as often as we can!



UNDERWATER PHOTO-TECH

YOUR COMPLETE UNDERWATER PHOTO CENTER

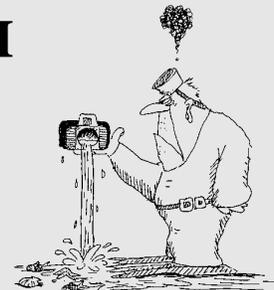
COME AND SEE OUR NEW SHOWROOM!

at

**16 Manning Street, Suite 104, Derry, NH 03038
603-432-1997**

NEW and USED

**CAMERA SYSTEMS IN STOCK
BOOKS AND ACCESSORIES FOR
ALL YOUR U/W PHOTO NEEDS**



PADI

DACOR

DIVERS DEN DIVE SHOP, INC.

EQUIPMENT SALES, RENTALS, & SERVICE

HAVE YOUR EQUIPMENT SERVICED NOW FOR THE SUMMER

STOP IN AND SEE WHAT'S NEW FOR THIS DIVE SEASON

730 MAMMOTH ROAD MANCHESTER, NH 03102

603-627-2536

SHERWOOD

U.S. DIVERS

HENDERSON

DAN Now Offering Up to \$125,000 Dive Accident Coverage

Divers Alert Network (DAN) is now offering its members \$125,000 insurance coverage through its Master Plan dive accident program. In addition, all DAN members now receive \$100,000 evacuation assistance as an automatic benefit of membership. This is nearly one quarter of a million dollars coverage - more than double DAN's original policy limits - for the same price.

"This is the best protection offered by any dive accident program in the scuba industry," says Barry Shuster, DAN's Director of Marketing. When you consider the affordability and value of the DAN program, and the fact that DAN medical experts are available 24-hours a day at Duke University Medical Center to coordinate treatment, evacuation and insurance for injured divers, you have to wonder why a diver would choose another insurance program."

DAN members also receive a free subscription to Alert Diver, DAN's award-winning magazine dedicated to dive safety and health, and a free copy of the DAN Dive

and Travel Medical Guide. DAN membership is only \$25 per year. The DAN Master Plan insurance program is only \$35 per year.

"The best part about DAN membership and insurance is that they support DAN's vital medical services to the diving community and its important dive safety research," says Shuster.

For more information on DAN's membership and insurance program, call DAN at 1-800-446-2671. United Divers of New Hampshire is a Bronze Sponsor of DAN, and our sponsor number is **031043** - make sure to use this number when applying for or renewing your DAN membership.

Meet and Dive at the Mall?

On the first Saturday of each month plan to meet at the Mall of NH, near the locked gate on the Lechmere side at 9am. The dive site will be determined at the time.

Dates are: May 4
June 1
July 6
August 3
September 1



Member Top 20
Dealers in the World

Dive Charters aboard M/V Giant Stride

Explore The Empire Knight
Dive with The Seals at Boon Island
Enjoy our many sites at The Isle of Shoals

For Info Call **207-363-3330**

York Beach Scuba Inc. 19 Railroad Ave. York Beach, ME 03910



The Northeast's
Premier Dive Resort

NH's TRANSMISSION SERVICE CENTER

RUSSELL AUTO INC.

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC

WAYNE RUSSELL

247 SO. WILLOW ST.
1-800-562-8229

MANCHESTER, NH
603-625-6438



1996 Meetings and Events

May 6 - Meeting

- Jay Gingrich of Portsmouth Scuba will be discussing and demonstrating dry suits. Open pool time follows.

May 11 - Dive

- Dive season kick-off club dive at Fort Foster. Contact Ken Anderson at 603-672-4444 for details.

May 17-19 Dive Weekend

- **May 17 - Night dive at Nubble Light.** Meet on site 9PM. Lodgings TBD.
- **May 18 - Meet at Hyperbaric Chamber in Sanford, ME,** at 10AM. Great opportunity for divers to enter and exit the chamber under their own power. Come see how and why the chamber works and what we can do to avoid it! Non-divers welcome too. Followed by a **Seal Dive with Captain Bill's Charters at 1PM. Dive cost \$45. Directions to Goodall Hospital, Sanford, ME.** Take Rte 1 north to Rte 109. Turn left onto Rte 109 towards Sanford. After entering town take a right onto Rte 202. Go about one mile and up a hill, take a right onto June Street just before the top of the hill. The professional Office building is the second building on the right.
- **May 19 - Diving on the Maine coast.** Details TBD

May 20 - Meeting

- Underwater Navigation presentation by John Scalese & Lee Markins of Watersports, Salem, NH. Open pool time follows as well as underwater navigation practice. Let's get wet! Bring your compass, mask, snorkel, fins, and of course, your bathing suit.

June 2 - Dive

- Isle of Shoals with Captain Bill's Charters to clean up the Jay Lewis Memorial. Cost TBD.

June 3 - Meeting

- Speaker Donny Stevens. Topic still being developed by Donny, but sure to be great based on past presentations. Open pool time follows.

June 17 - Meeting

- Tom Huff from Sea Topia Dive Ventures will be showing off a new method to get to that dive site - Dive Kayaks. Open pool time follows.

July 1 - Meeting

- Brad Barr Director of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. Open pool time follows.

July 7 - Dive

- Dive the Pintas wreck with Lea Nichols. See Lea at an upcoming meeting, or call him at 603-487-2726 for details.

July 13 & 14 - Dive Weekend

- Dive Lake Champlain near Burlington, Vermont and spend the night with a host family before diving again the next day. Contact Ken Anderson for details.



Club Meetings

Meetings are held the first and third Mondays of each month, except for January, November, and December, and when a meeting might interfere with the Independence Day or Labor Day holidays. We encourage potential members to attend a meeting or two to experience our club before joining. The meetings are held at the YMCA on 30 Mechanic St. in Manchester. The meetings start at 7:16 PM. Each meeting consists of a short business portion followed by a variety of presentations and discussions. Immediately following the club has an hour of pool time for swimming, trying out gear, and the occasional game of underwater hockey. Members and guests often meet afterwards at a local restaurant for food and drink.

Extreme Weather

Meetings will be held if the YMCA is open. You can call them at 603-623-3558. Check close to the meeting time as the front desk often has no advance warning of early closures.

Membership

Annual dues for membership for 1996 in the United Divers of New Hampshire are \$25/individual or \$40/family. Dues are not prorated for members who join later in the year. To join, please contact Jake Richter, 603-432-0234.

Get in the Swim

After every meeting, the YMCA pool is open to our dive club for an hour of fun and fitness.

Don't wait for the ice to thaw before trying out that new equipment, the pool is the perfect place. Check out the club calendar for special presentations in the pool like dive knife use or trying out a dry suit. So bring a suit and a towel to every meeting and get into the swim.

United Divers of New Hampshire Contact Information - 1996

President	Phil Morrison	603-529-4361
Vice President	Rick Bardsley	603-673-8539
Treasurer	Linda Richter	603-432-0234
Secretary	Jake Richter	603-432-0234
Dive Coordinator	Ken Anderson	603-672-4444



United Divers of New Hampshire
P.O. Box 703
Manchester, NH 03105

Forward and Address Correction Requested



Dive Log is the monthly newsletter of the United Divers of New Hampshire, an organization dedicated to educating divers and expanding the knowledge of diving in the State of New Hampshire and New England.

In This Issue:

- Ice Fever
- The President's Corner
- Albatross IV
- Dive Alert
- Plankton and Visibility
- DAN Improves Coverage
- 1996 Meetings and Events

First Club Dive of the Season



- Saturday, May 11th -

Don't miss it!